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SENATE BILL 2671 By
Williams

HOUSE BILL 2559
By Baird

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Chapter 8 and Chapter 21, relative to parking for physically disabled persons.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-160(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (15) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(15) In a parking space clearly identified by an official sign as being reserved for the physically disabled, unless, however, the person driving the vehicle is physically disabled or parking such vehicle for the benefit of a physically disabled person. A vehicle parking in such a space shall display a certificate or placard as set forth in Chapter 21 of this title, a disabled veteran's license plate issued under §55-4-237, or a Purple Heart license plate issued pursuant to §55-4-239.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-21-105(a), is amended by deleting the final sentence thereof in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Any disabled veteran who qualifies for and receives a disabled veteran's license plate and any veteran who qualifies for and receives a Purple Heart license plate pursuant to §55-4-

239, shall also be afforded the same privileges as granted to a disabled person who qualifies for and receives a disabled license plate or placard as provided for in §55-21-103.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-21-106(b), is amended by designating the present language as subdivision (b)(1) and by adding the following language as a new subdivision (b)(2):

(b)(2) The courtesies and exemptions relative to the parking of motor vehicles established by subdivision (b)(1) shall also be extended to a veteran who has qualified for, and has been issued a Purple Heart license plate pursuant to §55-4-239.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-21-108(a), is amended by deleting subdivisions (a)(1) and (a)(2) in their entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a)(1) Any person, except a person who meets the requirements for the issuance of a distinguishing placard or license plate, a disabled veteran's license plate, a Purple Heart license plate pursuant to §55-4-239, or who meets the requirements of §55-21-105(d), who parks in any parking space designated with the wheelchair disabled sign, commits a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100).

(2) In addition to the fine imposed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1), a vehicle which does not display a disabled license plate or placard or a Purple Heart license plate issued pursuant to §55-4-239, and which is parked in any parking space designated with the wheelchair disabled sign, is subject to being towed. When a vehicle has been towed or removed pursuant to this subdivision, it shall be released to its owner, or person in lawful possession, upon demand; provided, that such person making demand for return pays all reasonable towing and storage charges and that such demand is made during the operating hours of the towing company.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to all offenses occurring on or after such date.